For Immediate Release September 21, 2012 Contact: Francis Taylor 323-980-1221

Jerome Horton, BOE Chairman Commends Senator Curren Price for SB 1158

Sacramento – Governor Jerry Brown has signed legislation authored by Senator Curren Price, Jr. (D-Los Angeles) that allows the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) to postpone certain tax-related deadlines for gubernatorially declared disasters.

"I strongly support this bill," said Jerome E. Horton, Chairman of the Board of Equalization and a Member of the Franchise Tax Board. "There was nothing in the law, regardless of the extenuating circumstances that would have warranted interest relief, that enabled us to extend that relief."

"I was surprised to learn that government did not have this authority." Horton continued. "I commend Senator Price and the Legislature for recognizing this measure, that I sponsored, and the need to provide equitable treatment to taxpayers located in gubernatorially-declared state of emergency cities or counties by ensuring that taxpayers are not charged interest due to actions that are beyond their control and for which they are not responsible."

In addition, this bill will allow the FTB, at the taxpayer's request, to abate interest on specified taxes if the mailing of a taxpayer's notice or correspondence is delayed by the FTB due to a presidentially declared disaster or state of emergency.

Similar to other provisions of existing law, this bill also provides guidance on protests to the FTB and appeals to the State Board of Equalization (BOE).

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Elected in 2010, Chairman Jerome E. Horton is the Fourth District Member of the California State Board of Equalization, representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the Board of Equalization's Legislative Committee Chairman. He is the first to serve on the Board of Equalization with over 21 years of experience at the BOE. Horton previously served as an Assembly Member of the California State Assembly from 2000-2006.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board of Equalization collects more than \$53.7 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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